

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) An external storage device comprising:
  - a system interface section for conducting interface with a host computer;
  - a first memory storage area and a second memory storage area for storing sector data;
  - error correcting means for performing error detection and error correction for said sector data; and
  - control means for controlling a reading and writing operation of sector data with respect to said first memory storage area and said second memory storage area;
  - wherein in response to a write command from said host computer, said control means stores a plurality of sector data pertaining to said write command in sector units alternately in said first memory storage area and said second memory storage area, and
  - in response to a read command from said host computer, said control means reads out a first sector data among a plurality of sector data required by the read command from one of said first memory storage area and said second memory storage area, and supplies a read-out sector data to said error correcting means, and then said control means reads out sector data of said first memory storage area and said second memory storage area simultaneously, so that while N-th (where N is a natural number) sector data from one of said first memory storage area and said second memory storage area are transferred to said system interface section, (N + 1)th sector data from the other are transferred to said error correcting means.

2.-28. (Cancelled)